GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:276
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
Rights of Children
Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any initiatives or unveiled/ proposes to unveil any policy to promote/ protect the rights of children at Gram Panchayat level and if so, the details and the objectives thereof;
(b) whether the Government is facing challenges in implementation of these initiatives, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to overcome those difficulties;
(c) whether there is any improvement in the indices relating to children after the implementation of the policy initiatives; and
(d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (d) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 276 FOR 03.08.2017, REGARDING RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

(a): Ministry of Women and Child (MWCD) is operating Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with laws, since 2009. Sub-Section 13 and 14 of Section 2 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 defines "children in conflict with laws" and "children in need of care and protection" respectively. The Act and the Scheme does not differentiate between a child living in rural area or urban area. However, the scheme envisages formation of a village level child protection committee, to recommend and monitor the implementation of child protection services at the village level. The committee includes two child representatives, a member of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Anganwadi workers, school teachers, auxiliary nurse midwives as well as respected village members and civil society representatives.
(b) Various cross sectoral issues such as ensuring effective delivery of child related services like immunization, access to nutrition, protection of children from crimes and abuse, reintegration and rehabilitation of destitute and found children, ensuring grievance redressal for children etc. constitutes major challenges. To address the problems, and for ensuring all-round protection and development of children, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has been implementing Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) which aims to improve the well-being of children in difficult circumstances and reduce their vulnerability to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment etc. The scheme aims at improved access and enhanced quality of child protection services, enhanced capacities and skills of child protection personnel, increased awareness on child rights and protection, creation of a knowledge and information data base, clear role description and accountability at all levels, functional delivery structures at all levels and evidence based monitoring and evaluation.
Besides the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has prepared a training handbook and Module on Safe Childhood Programme, for the capacity building and training of Panchayat Elected Representatives and Functionaries on the subject. It will help the Panchayats to understand their role in protection and promotion of the rights of children at the local level and help address the issues of child rights at the level of Panchayats.
(c) & (d): The ICPS has significantly contributed to the realization of Government/ State responsibility for creating a system to efficiently and effectively protect children. Based on the cardinal principal of "protection of child rights" and "best interest of child", ICPS targets to achieve its objectives to contribute to the improvement in the well being of children in difficult circumstances, as well as to the reduction of vulnerabilities to situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children from their families.
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